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2013 Aug 20 - Sept 3



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temple, Dharma study  
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## August Sangha e-Newsletter

**Source: The Book of Serenity -One Hundred Zen Dialogues-  
Bodhidharma's "Empitiness"**

Tr. by Thomas Clearly

Emperor Wu of Liang asked Great Teacher Bodhidharma,  
"What is the highest meaning of the holy truths?"  
Bodhidharma said "Empty --- there are no holy."  
The emperor said, "Who are you facing me?"  
Bodhidharma said "Don't know."

The emperor didn't understand. Bodhidharma subsequently crossed  
the Yangtse River, came to Shaloin, and faced a wall for nine years.



*Tiantong:*  
**Empty --- nothing holy:**  
*The approach is far off.*  
*Succeeding, he swings the axe without injuring the nose;*  
*Failing, he drops the pitcher without looking back.*  
*Still and silent, coolly he sat at Shaolin:*  
*In silence he completely brought up the true imperative.*  
*The clear moon of autumn turns its frost disc;*  
*The Milky Way thin, the Dipper hangs down its handle in the night,*  
*In succession the robe and bowl have been imparted to descendants;*  
*From this humans and divinities have made*  
*medicine and disease.*

Hartford Street Zen  
Center is a 501(c)(3)  
nonprofit organization.

Donations are  
tax-deductible

## 🌀 Upcoming Events:

● **Sewing Abbot's Robe with Tim Wicks** - for the Mountain Seat Ceremony, Saturdays @11:30am

● **Dharma Talks** - **Rev. Myo Lahey** - Saturdays: Aug 24,31, Sept 7... @10:15am.

● **Guest Speakers Saturdays 10:15am -September 14 - Ayya Santacitta of Aloka Vihara; October 5 - Zachary Smith, Anshi Daigi; November 2 - Elaine Donlin Sensei of Jodo Shinshu; December 14 - Beata Chapman**

● **Full Moon Ceremony** - Saturday, August 24: the Full Sturgeon, Green Corn, or Grain, Moon

● **Sangha Council** - TBD.

● **Founder's Memorial** - Issan's Memorial is generally on the 6th of the month, & the memorial for Philip Whalen is generally on the 26th @ 6:40pm

● **Study Hour** The Book of Serenity, we have books to share, we read together, feel free to drop in - Thursdays @7:30pm

● **Next Board of Directors' Meeting** - Second Wednesdays of the month: September 11 @7:30pm (you're welcome to attend & observe)

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## Public Practice Schedule:

### Monday

6:00 pm Zazen (seated meditation)  
6:40 pm Chanting

### Tuesday- Friday

6:00 am Zazen  
6:40 am Kinhin (walking meditation)  
6:50 am Zazen  
7:20 am Chanting  
7:40 am Soji (brief temple cleaning)

6:00 pm Zazen  
6:40 pm Chanting  
Thursdays Study Hour 7:30pm

### Saturday

6:30 am Zazen  
7:10 am Chanting  
7:25 am Soji  
8:30 am Drop-in instruction  
9:25 am Zazen  
10:15 am Dharma Talk  
11:00 am Refreshments/Social



San Francisco in the Summer fog

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● **For Late August:** A welcome home Theresa from her three month trip and stay at Tassajara this summer. We missed you and our Sangha feels more balanced and normal again with you back! We all have talked about missing you these summer months and all anticipated with great joy and familiar comfort, your return. We look forward to hearing bit by bit about your experiences.

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● **From Our Residential Practitioners:** As of Mid-September we will have all residential spaces occupied and we are thrilled to again welcome back Theresa and in addition an exciting development from an already well known and loved long term Sangha member, David Bullock will be moving in! We are all so pleased to have him join the residents of Hartford Street; Ordained by Issan and a regular staple of our temple, as well as a great help with Priest duties garden and light construction! We welcome David to residential Hartford Street life! May it bring you as much joy as it brings us.

### **HIV Meditation Sitting Group**

weekly meditation group for those living with HIV, their friends, families, community supporters & anyone who wants to join us!  
Thursdays & Fridays

10:30 am zazen

11:00 am garden socializing

### **Meditation in Recovery**

(Men & Women)  
weekly meditation group for men & women in recovery from addiction

Fridays, 7:30 pm - 9 pm

### **Women's Meditation in Recovery**

(Women only)  
monthly meditation group for women in recovery from addiction First Thursdays

7:15 pm - 8:45 pm

● **Words From Our Practice Leader:** Reverend Myo Denis Lahey  
Queer Dharma Vol. 1 Voices of Gay Buddhists

...it may happen that some of those bearing the onslaught of social opprobrium come to hear Buddha's teaching. In paraphrase, Buddha says, "Do you wonder about your life, about suffering? Come sit still with me awhile, and I will tell you what I've learned." As a gay man, I myself heard this invitation with my wounded heart, and something told me that



I needed to know what Buddha had discovered. I knew that I suffered, and later I found that I and many of my gay brothers and sisters suffered in the especially poignant fashion of those whose offering of themselves has been spurned. I believe that what I sensed in Buddha's words was the possibility of healing, and it is of the kind of healing effected by the medicine of Dharma that I would like to speak

next.

Dharma practice is, in a fundamental sense, about healing. It is about healing the ancient rift between "self" and other, between the sphere of the putative receiver and the universe putatively perceived. At the basis of this healing is the experience of what has been called the undivided self, or the primordial self, or even the true self.

● **Hartford Street History:** HSZC Newsletter -- July 1990 --- Issan  
and the Abbotship

On June 10 there was a meeting of the Hartford St. Zen Center Board of Directors to discuss Issan's health and the succession of the Abbotship. As most of our Sangha probably knows Issan is quite ill at present with AIDS related lymphoma. He is undergoing an 18 week treatment of chemotherapy which unfortunately makes him feel very sick and weak at times. At this point it is too early to tell what results the treatment will give. It is a wait and see situation.

**Hartford Street Zen Center** is a  
Castro neighborhood temple &  
residential practice center in the Soto  
Zen tradition of Shunryu Suzuki Roshi  
established to support & engage the  
LGBTQI (Queer) Community and our  
allies

**NEW! Women's Sitting  
group**

(Women only)

Sitting followed by Dharma talk then  
tea and cookies. Mostly Zen.

**Kicks off Tues, September 3rd:**  
7pm-8:30pm

At the board meeting Issan expressed his wish that Kijun Steve Allen succeed him as Abbot of Issanji/Hartford St. Zen Center. His wish received the support of the board. The Mountain Seat Ceremony has not been scheduled.

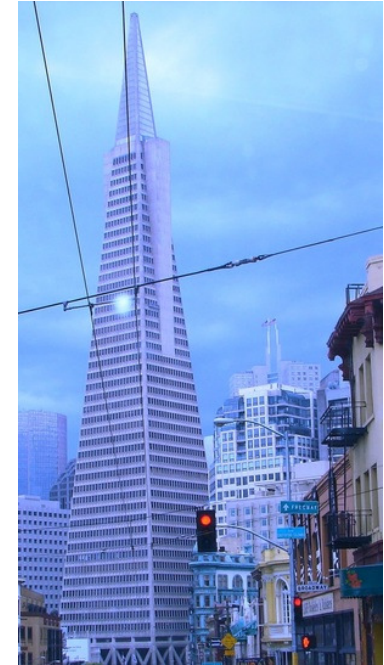
● **From the Garden:** The Bamboo grove conversion to Bamboo Island (reduction in size) project is wrapping up. Extremely deep bows to Jen for all her months and months, up to a good year or more of hard back breaking effort and now many small sprouts are making their way upwards to feed on sunlight.

The upper level gravel area work/change is in full swing, the conversion from rose garden to veggie patch and continued garden efforts... One thing we flowers and plants know with seasons and human activity; is there is a always a constant flow of change!

● **Sangha Member Writings or Muse:**

Whip Smart  
Name: Tokusan

[Peter Goetz MFT](#) - Dharma



**Whip Smart** is the story of a bright young woman, raised in a middle class small town American life that she jettisoned by her mid-teens to fend for herself in work and independent life in Boston. Waiting tables, the in, out and in again of myriad relationships, taking night classes at Harvard and eventually relocating to New York to pursue college, Melissa shows her scrapper self. New York, for her, was the only real destination worth marking and it's here that the story really begins.

Like college students past and present, she lives with other students in shared apartments, is short of cash and curious and adventurous enough to happen her way – via a short cryptic ad in an alternative

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weekly – into being a dominatrix in a BDSM dungeon in lower Manhattan. Her arrival there is what the book blurbs on the front & back covers call ‘unsettling’, ‘exposing the darkest corners of uncharted territory of both her and her clients’ minds’. And there the story turns onto a wider screen. The BDSM world she charts of life in the dungeon is one marked for her by secrets, the exchange of power, the separation of desire and action and throwing off of any societal standards of *appropriate* sexual conduct or feelings.

What also comes through is the Febos’s use of dissociation to sustain herself, starting with what’s needed to do her job but spreads into other areas of her life. ([For the remainder of Article, click here](#))

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● **Ascending the Mountain:** The invitation (in physical paper form) is in full swing. The Okesa is wrapping up, more building and garden work ahead for the Hartford Street ZC Mountain Seat Ceremony & Celebration this fall!

As always:

*Our deepest gratitude to all who are helping to move this project forward.*



**Ready for "the" big commitment (Marriage) & seeking a LGBTQI, Buddhist space to start your new chapter in life?** HSZC & Rev. Myo Lahey can be a part of this amazing & love filled ceremony. HSZC can house your Zen Buddhist Wedding ceremony & Rev Myo can perform weddings! Please email

[hszc108@yahoo.com](mailto:hszc108@yahoo.com), call us, or the best way to discuss is to stop by during our publicly open hours.



Practice Leader, Hartford Street Zen Center (HSZC) --- Reverend Myō Lahey

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**May this newsletter find you well & filled with equanimity! —/\—**